REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 are amended. No new matter is added.

A Substitute Specification is submitted to provide a more idiomatic English version of the English-language translation of the Japanese language application submitted on December 16, 2003.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants' respectfully submit that all claims should be examined. Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted

James A. Oliff

Régistration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/ldg

Attachments:

Abstract
Substitute Specification
Marked-Up Specification

Date: January 12, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. Box 19928 Alexandria, Virginia 22320 Telephone: (703) 836-6400 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461